

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 OES-07

SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /096 W

-----121027Z 050289 /21

O 120929Z MAY 77 ZFF RUEHC RUQMRA RUQMYA

FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5420

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE

USLO RIYADH NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, SA

SUBJECT: FIRE AT ARAMCO'S ABQAIQ FACILITY

1. ARAMCO MANAGEMENT IS CURRENTLY ATTEMPTING TO CONTAIN A SIZEABLE FIRE WHICH BROKE OUT YESTERDAY MAY 11 AT APPROXIMATELY 3:00 P.M. AT TWO OF THE COMPANY'S ABQAIQ PUMPING STATION. ARAMCO CHAIRMAN FRANK JUNGERS STATES THAT THE FIRE WILL REDUCE THE COMPANY'S PRODUCTION FOR A TIME ; BUT IT DOES NOT AT THIS POINT APPEAR THAT THE LOSS WILL BE A MAJOR OR LONG TERM ONE. THE FIRE HAS PRODUCED
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ONE FATALITY THUS FAR (STILL UNIDENTIFIED BUT NOT AN AMERICAN) AND SOME 26 KNOWN CAATGLTIES INCLUDING 12 WITH SERIOUS FIRST AWD SECOND DEGREE BURNS.

2. THE FIRE APPEARS TO HAVE STARTED IN A PIPE LINE BETWEEN TWO PUMPING STATIONS, AND THE COMPANY DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER THE FIRE RESULTED FROM ARSON OR NATURAL CAUSES. SENIOR

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ENGINEERING, FRANK FUGATE, STATES THAT
EVEN THOUGH THE FIRE IS STILL BURNING, OIL CONTINUES TO BE
PUMPED TO RAS TANURA FROM THE ABQAIQ PUMPING STATION

ALTHOUGH IN REDUCED AMOUNTS. FUGATE IS ATTEMPTING TO ASSESS
THE DAMAGE THIS MORNING AND TO ESTIMATE THE
AMOUNT OF TIME NECESSARY TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE. HE TOLD
CONSUL GENERAL LAST EVENING THAT HE BELIEVES THE DAMAGE CAN BE
REPAIRED REMARKABLY QUICKLY BEAUSE ARAMCO HAS SO MUCH
SIMILAR EQUIPMENT EITHER IN INVENTORY IN DHAHRAN OR ENROUTE
TO SAUDI ARABIA FOR ITS VARIOUS EXPANSION PROJECTS.

3. ACCORDING TO FRAGMENTARY SITREP FROM ARAMCO EARLY TODAY,
MAY 12, FIRE IS UNDER CONTROL. FIRE
APPARENTLY HAS DAMAGED ONE TANK IN CRUDE OIL TANK FARM ON EDGE
OF ABQAIQ BUT ADEQUATE PRECAUTIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO PREVENT
FIRE FROM SPREADING. ON NATURAL GAS SPHEROID HAS BEEN AFFECTED
BUT THE GAS PROCESSING FACILITY HAS NOT BEEN DAMAGED. COMPANY
SPOKESMAN COMMENTS THAT FIRE IS "BAD ONE" BUT IS NOT THE WORST EVER
EXPEIENCED BY ARAMCO.

4. POST HAS BEEN PASSED CONTENTS OF PURPORTED MOBIL
PRESS RELEASE WHICH DESCRIBES ABQAIQ FIRE AS "MAJOR CATASTROPHE"
WHICH HAS CUT ARAMCO'S CRUDE PORDUCTION BY 6 MILLION BPD.
ARAMCO CHAIRMAN JUNGZRS CHARACTERIZES MOBIL OIL REPORT
AS "INACCURATE AND UNAUTHORIZED". CHAIRMAN IS PERSONALLY
DIRECTING HIS STAFF IN PREPARATION OF PRESS RELEASE
WHICH POST WILL TBANSMIT AS IMMEDIATE TELEGRAM AS SOON AS RELEASED.
BUSHNELL
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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM PRODUCTION, PETROLEUM TRANSPORTATION, FIRES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Film Number: D770167-0548
Format: TEL
From: DHAHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770567/aaaacfa.tel
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: 55e3b695-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2553175
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FIRE AT ARAMCO'S ABQAIQ FACILITY
TAGS: ENRG, SA, ARAMCO, (JUNGERS, FRANK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/55e3b695-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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